

# SSPC Issue Brief

## Strengthening Strategic Partnerships: Analysing India's 2+2 Dialogues with the USA, Japan, Australia, and Russia

**Medhavi Khushi Sharma**

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This Issue Brief examines India's 2+2 Dialogues with the USA, Japan, Australia, Russia, and the UK, and evaluates its strategic partnerships with France, South Korea, Brazil, and Indonesia, to assess their impact on India's foreign policy. It highlights India's evolving role in global geopolitics and its efforts to strengthen strategic alliances across different regions while demonstrating how these dialogues and partnerships contribute to India's Defense capabilities and broader strategic objectives on the international stage. It also underscores India's proactive stance in bolstering its Defense and diplomatic networks, enhancing its regional influence, and aligning with global security frameworks. This strategic approach consolidates India's position as a key player in international geopolitics, showcasing its commitment to maintaining regional stability and addressing global security challenges.



## INTRODUCTION

The “2+2” format of high-level ministerial meetings involves the defense and foreign affairs ministers or secretaries of the respective countries involved. The “2+2” format is often used by countries with strong diplomatic and security ties to coordinate on matters of mutual interest, such as defense cooperation, security challenges, strategic partnerships, and regional stability. These meetings can be significant in shaping the strategic direction of the countries involved and fostering closer collaboration on security and foreign policy objectives.

India’s engagement in 2+2 Dialogues with crucial strategic partners, the USA, Japan, Australia, Russia, and the UK, underscores its commitment to fostering strong bilateral relationships and navigating complex geopolitical landscapes. In international relations, high-level strategic dialogues are crucial in enhancing mutual understanding, trust, and cooperation among nations. India’s 2+2 Dialogues deepen bilateral partnerships and promote regional stability in the Indo-Pacific and beyond, reflecting its role as a responsible and proactive global player.

COUNTRY	MINISTERS ATTENDED	YEAR
INDIA-USA	Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj, Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis.	2018
INDIA-USA	Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of Defense Rajnath Singh Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper	2019
INDIA-USA	Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of Defense Rajnath Singh Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper	2020
INDIA-USA	Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of Defense Rajnath Singh Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III	2022
INDIA-USA	Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of Defense Rajnath Singh Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III	2023
INDIA-JAPAN	Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of Defense Rajnath Singh Foreign Affairs Minister of Japan Motegi Toshimitsu, Minister of Defense of Japan Kono Taro	2019

INDIA-JAPAN	Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of Defense Rajnath Singh  Foreign Affairs Minister of Japan, Hayashi Yoshimasa, Minister of Defense of Japan, Hamada Yasukazu.	2022
INDIA-AUSTRALIA	Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of Defense Rajnath Singh  Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women Marise Payne, Minister for Defense Peter Dutton	2021
INDIA-AUSTRALIA	Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of Defense Rajnath Singh  Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defense Richard Marles	2023
INDIA-RUSSIA	Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of Defense Rajnath Singh  Minister for Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov, Minister for Defense Sergei Shoigu	2021
INDIA-UK	Joint Secretary Europe West Piyush Srivastava, Joint Secretary International Cooperation Vishwesh Negi  India Director, Indian Ocean Directorate Ben Mellor, Deputy Chief of Defense Staff, Finance and Military Capability Robert Magowan.	2023
INDIA-BRAZIL	Additional Secretary External Affairs Ministry G. V. Srinivas, Joint Secretary Defense Ministry Vishwesh Negi  Director Brazilian Foreign Ministry Marcelo Camara, Rear Admiral Fernando de Luca Marques de Oliviera	2024

**(Table-1: International Ministerial Meetings: 2018-2014)**

## THE USA

The India-USA 2+2 Dialogue, which emerged from the Strategic Dialogue framework, signifies a shift towards broader engagement between the two countries to tackle evolving global challenges. Launched in 2018, this dialogue serves as a platform for senior-level discussions on defense, security, and strategic matters of shared concern, underscoring the strengthening alliance between the two nations. India is a major Defense partner of the United States, which lays the groundwork for expanding the scope of cooperation and collaboration between the two countries and strengthening Defense and security ties.<sup>1</sup> Some significant agreements between India and the USA include the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), which provides India with access to advanced Defense systems. The Industrial Security Annex (ISA), signed in

1. "Indo-US 2+2 Dialogue", *Press Information Bureau*, <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1557922>

2019, supports better Defense industry cooperation, collaboration,<sup>2</sup> and exchanges between the US Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) and the Indian Navy, which is committed to deepening maritime cooperation in the Western Indian Ocean. Technology plays a pivotal role in the India-US Defense partnership. The countries prioritize co-development projects and pursue areas of Defense cooperation and innovation via the Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI).<sup>3</sup> Both countries collaborate to promote a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. India and the US conduct joint military exercises like Tiger Triumph,<sup>4</sup> Yudh Abhyas,<sup>5</sup> Vajra Prahar,<sup>6</sup> and Cope India.<sup>7</sup>

## JAPAN

India and Japan share deep-rooted historical ties dating back centuries, characterized by cultural exchanges, Buddhism, and a shared commitment to democracy and peace. The ancient ties between the two nations form the bedrock of their modern strategic partnership, fostering mutual respect, trust, and cooperation. The India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue is important in deepening strategic cooperation between the two countries, especially as key democracies in the Indo-Pacific.

India and Japan are committed to a rules-based global order, respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations and emphasizing the need for all countries to seek peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law without resorting to threat or use of force or any attempt to change the status quo unilaterally.<sup>8</sup> India expressed its support for working towards enhanced security and Defense cooperation, underscoring Japan's determination to reinforce its

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2. "India and US to set-up joint working group in Defense industrial security", *Press Information Bureau*, [https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1759911#:~:text=The%20Industrial%20Security%20Agreement%20\(ISA,industries%20of%20both%20the%20nations](https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1759911#:~:text=The%20Industrial%20Security%20Agreement%20(ISA,industries%20of%20both%20the%20nations).

3. "Joint Statement on the Inaugural U.S.-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue - U.S. Embassy & Consulates in India", *U.S. Embassy & Consulates in India*, <https://in.usembassy.gov/joint-statement-on-the-inaugural-u-s-india-22-ministerial-dialogue/>

4. "India, US undertake joint exercise as part of "Tiger Triumph-24" in Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada", *The Economic Times*, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/Defense/india-us-undertake-joint-exercise-as-part-of-tiger-triumph-24-in-andhra-pradeshs-kakinada/articleshow/108902474.cms?from=mdr>

5. "EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS-23" SET TO COMMENCE IN FORT WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA, USA – INDIAN CONTINGENT DEPARTS", *Press Information Bureau*, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1960137>

6. "INDIA-USA JOINT EXERCISE VAJRA PRAHAR COMMENCES IN UMROI, MEGHALAYA", *Press Information Bureau*, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1978458#:~:text=Exercise%20VAJRA%20PRAHAR%20is%20a,mission%20planning%20and%20operational%20tactics>.

7. "CULMINATION OF EXERCISE COPE INDIA-2023", *Press Information Bureau*, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1919361>

8. "Joint Statement: Second India-Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting", *Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India* [https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/35684/Joint Statement Second IndiaJapan 22 Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/35684/Joint%20Statement%20Second%20India-Japan%2022%20Foreign%20and%20Defense%20Ministerial%20Meeting)

Defense capabilities within the next five years and substantially increase its Defense budget. The Prime Ministers of India and Japan committed to continuing bilateral and multilateral exercises, including “SHINYUU Maitri”, “Dharma Guardian”, “JIMEX”, and “Malabar”, while welcoming Japan’s participation in exercise “Milan” for the first time in 2022.<sup>9</sup> As two leading powers in the Indo-Pacific region, both countries have a shared interest in the safety and security of the maritime domain, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce and peaceful resolution of disputes with full respect for legal and diplomatic processes in accordance with international law and called for the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and the early conclusion of a substantive and effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea in accordance with international law, especially UNCLOS, without prejudice to the rights and interests of all nations including those not party to these negotiations. Both countries cooperate and collaborate on various fronts. India and Japan have completed collaborative research on unmanned ground vehicles, combining Visual SLAM data with GNSS data to develop a more dependable navigation system for autonomous military vehicles.<sup>10</sup> Both countries concur to strengthen counter-terrorism efforts globally and work together on the early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) in the UN.<sup>11</sup> Both countries have active space collaborations between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) in satellite navigation, lunar exploration, and the Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF).<sup>12</sup>

## **AUSTRALIA**

The 2+2 Dialogue between India and Australia, akin to the India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue, holds critical importance in the Indo-Pacific amidst growing geopolitical rivalries and security complexities. Both India and Australia are key players in ensuring an Indo-Pacific. This dialogue underscores their dedication to supporting a rule-based framework, bolstering maritime security, and strengthening regional stability through increased collaboration and alignment.

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9. “India-Japan Summit Joint Statement Partnership for a Peaceful, Stable and Prosperous Post-COVID World”, *Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India*, [https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/34991/IndiaJapan\\_Summit\\_Joint\\_Statement\\_Partnership\\_for\\_a\\_Peaceful\\_Stable\\_and\\_Prosporous\\_PostCOVID\\_World](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/34991/IndiaJapan_Summit_Joint_Statement_Partnership_for_a_Peaceful_Stable_and_Prosporous_PostCOVID_World)

10. “Japan and India Collaborate on Next-Gen Navigation for Self-Driving Military Vehicles”, *Indian Defense Research Wing*, <https://idrw.org/japan-and-india-collaborate-on-next-gen-navigation-for-self-driving-military-vehicles/#:~:text=By%20combining%20Visual%20SLAM%20data,for%20both%20Japan%20and%20India>.

11. “India-Japan Summit Joint Statement Partnership for a Peaceful, Stable and Prosperous Post-COVID World”, *Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India*, [https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/34991/IndiaJapan\\_Summit\\_Joint\\_Statement\\_Partnership\\_for\\_a\\_Peaceful\\_Stable\\_and\\_Prosporous\\_PostCOVID\\_World](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/34991/IndiaJapan_Summit_Joint_Statement_Partnership_for_a_Peaceful_Stable_and_Prosporous_PostCOVID_World)

12. “India-Japan Bilateral Brief”, *Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India*, [https://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/Japan\\_-\\_Bilateral\\_Brief\\_MEA\\_Website\\_Oct\\_2023.pdf](https://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/Japan_-_Bilateral_Brief_MEA_Website_Oct_2023.pdf)

India and Australia are committed to working together on shared maritime safety and security priorities, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>13</sup> and the Sustainable Development Goals,<sup>14</sup> the blue economy, critical and emerging technologies, clean energy, reformed multilateralism, global governance, and inclusive development.<sup>15</sup> Both countries, sharing major Indian Ocean coastlines, share a positive cooperation agenda, reinforcing an open, inclusive, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific. Reiterating the importance of the Defense relationship between both countries, India and Australia have made substantial progress in building an advanced and comprehensive Defense and security cooperation via joint exercises like Malabar, Tarang Shakti, AUSINDEX, and AUSTRALIA HIND, Defense policy talks, and 1.5 track dialogues.<sup>16</sup> To build operational familiarity, enhance interoperability, share information, and enhance maritime domain awareness, both countries conduct aircraft deployments from each other's territories. India and Australia also cooperate and collaborate on different fronts like countering radicalization and violent extremism, sharing intelligence and cooperating in investigative and judicial processes, working closely together to protect the integrity of the international financial system from transnational crime and illegal monetary transactions, keeping nations secure from piracy, and preventing the use of the internet for terrorist and violent extremist purposes among others. Both countries have a Framework Arrangement on Cyber and Cyber-Enabled Critical Technology Cooperation, recognizing the importance of cyber security, digital economy, and cyber and critical technologies. An open, secure, free, accessible, and stable cyberspace is important for enhancing national security, fostering international security and stability, and maximizing economic growth opportunities.<sup>17</sup>

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13. "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. (n.d.). Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water", *Government of Australia*, <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/international/2030-agenda>

14. "2030 Agenda", *The World Wide Fund for Nature, India*, [https://www.wwfindia.org/about\\_wwf/enablers/sustainable\\_livelihoods\\_and\\_governance\\_programme/2030\\_agenda/](https://www.wwfindia.org/about_wwf/enablers/sustainable_livelihoods_and_governance_programme/2030_agenda/)

15. "Joint Statement: Second India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, New Delhi", *Ministry of Defense, Government of Australia*, <https://www.minister.Defense.gov.au/statements/2023-11-20/joint-statement-second-india-australia-22-ministerial-dialogue-new-delhi#:~:text=Jaishankar%20held%20the%20second%20India,Senator%20the%20Hon%20Penny%20Wong.>

16. "Joint Statement: Second India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, New Delhi", *Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India*, [https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/37284/Joint\\_Statement\\_Second\\_IndiaAustralia\\_22\\_Ministerial\\_Dialogue\\_New\\_Delhi\\_20\\_November\\_2023](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/37284/Joint_Statement_Second_IndiaAustralia_22_Ministerial_Dialogue_New_Delhi_20_November_2023)

17. "Joint Statement on Inaugural India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue", *Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India*, [https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/34250/Joint\\_Statement\\_on\\_Inaugural\\_IndiaAustralia\\_22\\_Ministerial\\_Dialogue\\_11\\_September\\_2021\\_New\\_Delhi](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/34250/Joint_Statement_on_Inaugural_IndiaAustralia_22_Ministerial_Dialogue_11_September_2021_New_Delhi)

## RUSSIA

India and Russia share a long-standing, multifaceted relationship characterized by mutual friendship, trust, and strategic cooperation. Indo-Russian ties have evolved into a comprehensive strategic partnership, encompassing cooperation in political, strategic, economic, military, scientific, technological, Defense, energy, trade, and humanitarian areas. The completion of five decades of the Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation<sup>18</sup> and two decades of Declaration on Strategic Partnership<sup>19</sup> symbolizes the long-standing India-Russia relations.

India's Defense cooperation with Russia is guided by the Agreement for 2021-2031 on the Programme for Military Technical Cooperation signed between the two countries, which was signed in 2021. Both countries have periodic joint military exercises like Indra and Vostok.<sup>20</sup> India and Russia have an institutional structure that oversees various areas related to military and military-technical cooperation between both countries, i.e. The India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC).<sup>21</sup> Some major ongoing bilateral projects between the two countries include the licensed production of T-90 tanks and Su-30-MKI supply of MiG-29-K aircraft and Kamov-31.<sup>22</sup> India and Russia also cooperate on joint research, design development, and production of state-of-the-art military platforms, exemplified by the production of the Brahmos cruise missile.<sup>23</sup> Both countries have a joint venture under the "Make in India" initiative named Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), which, as stated by President Putin, the new joint venture will manufacture world-famous Kalashnikov assault rifles of the newest 200 series and eventually will reach complete localization of production. Thus, the

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18. "Indo-Soviet Relations — Documents (1971)", *The Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of India*, [https://india.mid.ru/en/history/articles\\_and\\_documents/indo-soviet-relations-documents-1971/#:~:text=9%20August%201971,-](https://india.mid.ru/en/history/articles_and_documents/indo-soviet-relations-documents-1971/#:~:text=9%20August%201971,-)

[There%20are%20momentous&text=The%20Treaty%20of%20Peace%2C%20Friendship,aimed%20at%20cooperati](https://india.mid.ru/en/history/articles_and_documents/indo-soviet-relations-documents-1971/#:~:text=9%20August%201971,-There%20are%20momentous&text=The%20Treaty%20of%20Peace%2C%20Friendship,aimed%20at%20cooperati)

19. "India-Russia Bilateral Relations", *Embassy of India, Moscow (Russia)*, <https://indianembassy-moscow.gov.in/bilateral-relations-india-russia.php#:~:text=Since%20the%20signing%20of%20the,%2C%20Defense%2C%20trade%20and%20economy%2C>

20. "EXERCISE INDRA-21", *Press Information Bureau*,

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739351>

"Indian Army Contingent Participates in Exercise Vostok- 2022 at Sergeyevsky, East Military District Russia", *Press Information Bureau*,

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1856018#:~:text=A%20multilateral%20strategic%20and%20command,participating%20military%20contingents%20and%20observers.>

21. "India-Russia Defense Cooperation", *Embassy of India, Moscow (Russia)*, <https://indianembassy-moscow.gov.in/india-russia-Defense-cooperation.php#:~:text=The%2020th%20edition%20of%20this,military%20and%20military%20technical%20issues.>

es.

22. Ibid.

23. Ibid.

Indian Defense-industrial sector will have the opportunity to fulfil the needs of national security agencies in this category of small arms, resting upon advanced Russian technologies.<sup>24</sup> The Roadmap for Science, Technology, & Innovation signed in 2021 is another important cooperation between the two countries.<sup>25</sup> This has guided bilateral cooperation in areas like India's manned spaceflight program, Gaganyaan, and India's only nuclear plant, the Kudankulam Nuclear Plant in Tamil Nadu, which was established with another country.<sup>26</sup>

## **COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND DEFENSE DIALOGUES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES**

### **UNITED KINGDOM**

India and the UK share deep-rooted historical ties and a legacy of diplomatic engagement spanning centuries. The 2+2 Dialogue serves as a forum to enhance coordination on Defense, security, and geopolitical issues, reinforcing the strategic partnership between India and the UK. Bilateral relations between India and the UK have evolved into a multifaceted partnership encompassing trade, investment, education, and Defense cooperation.

The India-UK Strategic Partnership works to tackle cyber, space, crime and terrorist threats and develop a free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific region.<sup>27</sup> Both countries cooperate and collaborate on various areas, including many different dialogues, forums, and partnerships, including but not limited to the following: the biennial ministerial India-UK Science and Innovation Council that sets the agenda for both the governments' science, research and innovation collaborations,<sup>28</sup> the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the United Kingdom Space Agency (UKSA) cooperate and have a framework for collaborative activities in areas of common interests in civil

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24. "PM dedicates the Joint Venture Indo-Russian Rifles Pvt. Ltd. to the Nation, at Amethi", *Press Information Bureau*, <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1567248>

25. "India- Russia Joint Statement following the visit of the President of the Russian Federation", *Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India*, [https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/34606/India\\_Russia\\_Joint\\_Statement\\_following\\_the\\_visit\\_of\\_the\\_President\\_of\\_the\\_Russian\\_Federation](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/34606/India_Russia_Joint_Statement_following_the_visit_of_the_President_of_the_Russian_Federation)

26. "India-Russia Defense Cooperation", *Embassy of India, Moscow (Russia)*, <https://indianembassy-moscow.gov.in/india-russia-Defense-cooperation.php#:~:text=The%2020th%20edition%20of%20this,military%20and%20military%20technical%20issues.>

27. "2030 Roadmap for India-UK future relations", *Government of UK*, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/india-uk-virtual-summit-may-2021-roadmap-2030-for-a-comprehensive-strategic-partnership/2030-roadmap-for-india-uk-future-relations>

28. "UK and India collaboration: Roadmap to 2030", *House of Lords Library, UK Parliament*, <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/uk-and-india-collaboration-roadmap-to-2030/#:~:text=Defense%20and%20security,secure%20Indo%2DPacific%20region%E2%80%9D.>



aspects of space, in the use of space technology for peaceful purposes, space science and space applications.<sup>29</sup> Both countries cooperate in critical areas of strategic collaboration, such as modern fighter aircraft and advanced jet engine core technology.<sup>30</sup> Both countries work together in a partnership to increase mutual cyber resilience against malicious cyber activity.<sup>31</sup> India and the UK also cooperate to promote freedom of navigation and open access and improve maritime cooperation via a partnership in the Western Indian Ocean.<sup>32</sup> The UK, deploying its most advanced naval capabilities in the Indian Ocean to train with Indian forces, signals a growing significance of the India-UK strategic partnership.<sup>33</sup> Both countries also conduct joint military exercises like Ajeya Warrior, Konkan, and Cobra Warrior.<sup>34</sup>

## **BRAZIL**

Brazil was the first Latin American nation to establish diplomatic relations with India in 1948.<sup>35</sup> The ties were elevated to a strategic partnership in 2006, opening a new phase in the bilateral relations.<sup>36</sup> Both the countries are members of BRICS, G-20, IBSA and G4. India-Brazil inaugural 2+2 Dialogue was held in March 2024.<sup>37</sup> Both countries have welcomed increased Defense cooperation, including joint military exercises, exchange of high-level delegations, and Defense industries from both countries exploring new collaboration avenues and joint projects to co-produce technologically advanced Defense products.<sup>38</sup> The dialogue was co-chaired by the Additional Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs, G.V. Srinivas and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defense Vishwesh Negi from the Indian side and Director Marcelo Camara, Ministry of Foreign

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29. “Memorandum of Understanding Between ISRO and UKSA Regarding Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes”, *In Government of UK, Assets Publishing Service, Government of UK*, <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7dabf540f0b65d8b4e2cda/isro-uksa-mou.pdf>

30. “UK and India collaboration: Roadmap to 2030”, *House of Lords Library, UK Parliament*, <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/uk-and-india-collaboration-roadmap-to-2030/#:~:text=Defense%20and%20security,secure%20Indo%2DPacific%20region%E2%80%9D>.

31. “India-UK cyber statement”, *Government of UK*, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prime-minister-boris-johnsons-visit-to-india-april-2022-uk-india-joint-statements/india-uk-cyber-statement-april-2022>

32. “2030 Roadmap for India-UK future relations”, *Government of UK*, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/india-uk-virtual-summit-may-2021-roadmap-2030-for-a-comprehensive-strategic-partnership/2030-roadmap-for-india-uk-future-relations>

33. “UK to send warships to Indian Ocean as sign of close strategic ties with India: Defense Secy Shapps”, *The Economic Times*, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/Defense/uk-to-send-warships-to-indian-ocean-as-sign-of-close-strategic-ties-with-india-Defense-secy-shapps/articleshow/106705075.cms?from=mdr>

34. “India-UK Relations”, *High Commission of India, London, United Kingdom*, <https://www.hcilondon.gov.in/page/india-uk-relations/>

35. “India-Brazil Relations”, *Embassy of India, Brasilia, Brazil*, <https://coibrasilia.gov.in/india-brazil-relations.php>

36. Ibid.

37. “India, Brazil hold first “2+2” Defense and foreign ministerial dialogue”, *The Economic Times*, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/Defense/india-brazil-hold-first-22-Defense-and-foreign-ministerial-dialogue/articleshow/108501306.cms?from=mdr>

38. “India-Brazil Joint Statement”, *Press Information Bureau*, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1956082>

Affairs and Rear Admiral Fernando de Luca Marques de Oliviera, Ministry of Defense, from the Brazil side.<sup>39</sup> A key point of discussion was the collaboration to bolster military capabilities, primarily via joint production of the C390 Millennium multi-mission transport aircraft (MTA) between the Brazilian Embraer and Mahindra Group for the Indian Air Force.<sup>40</sup> Both countries are exploring various other areas of collaboration, such as energy, critical minerals, counter-terrorism, exchange of information and military technology, cooperation in capacity building and training, and partnerships in developing defense systems and equipment.<sup>41</sup>

## **SOUTH KOREA**

The strategic relationship between India and ROK started in 2004,<sup>42</sup> when a “Long-Term Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity” was signed, laying the groundwork for robust economic and strategic ties. 2010, it was upgraded to a “Strategic Partnership”<sup>43</sup> and further elevated to a “Special Strategic Partnership” during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s official visit in 2015. Recently, South Korea released its Indo-Pacific policy of “Strategy for a Free, Peaceful, and Prosperous Indo-Pacific Region.”<sup>44</sup> The defense ties between India and South Korea have seen substantial enhancement, marked by the establishment of annual Defense Ministerial Dialogues from 2015 onwards, progressing to a 2+2 dialogue in 2021.<sup>45</sup> The Indian Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the South Korean Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) conduct Steering Committee Meetings<sup>46</sup> underscoring joint

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39. “India, Brazil hold first “2+2” Defense and foreign ministerial dialogue”, *The Economic Times*, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/Defense/india-brazil-hold-first-22-Defense-and-foreign-ministerial-dialogue/articleshow/108501306.cms?from=mdr>

40. Siddiqui, H, “Expanding India-Brazil Strategic Partnership: Joint Efforts in Military Cooperation”, *Financial Express*, <https://www.financialexpress.com/business/Defense-expanding-india-brazil-strategic-partnership-joint-efforts-in-military-cooperation-3427085/>

41. Mattoo, S, “India, Brazil discuss stronger Defense ties, from technology to information”, *Mint*, <https://www.livemint.com/industry/india-brazil-discuss-stronger-Defense-ties-from-technology-to-information-11712133885606.html>

42. “Celebrating 50 Years Tapestry of India-Korea Relationship”, *Invest India*, <https://www.investindia.gov.in/team-india-blogs/celebrating-50-years-tapestry-india-korea-relationship#:~:text=The%20deep%2Drooted%20connections%20between,ancient%20Gaya%20Confederacy%20in%20Korea>

43. “India-ROK Joint Statement for Special Strategic Partnership”, *Embassy of India, Seoul*, <https://www.indembassyseoul.gov.in/india-rok-joint-statement-special-strategic-partnership>

44. “Celebrating 50 Years Tapestry of India-Korea Relationship”, *Invest India*, <https://www.investindia.gov.in/team-india-blogs/celebrating-50-years-tapestry-india-korea-relationship#:~:text=The%20deep%2Drooted%20connections%20between,ancient%20Gaya%20Confederacy%20in%20Korea>

45. “Media Release on First India-Republic of Korea 2+2 Bilateral Dialogue”, *Indian Council of World Affairs (Government of India)*, [https://www.icwa.in/show\\_content.php?lang=1&level=2&cls\\_id=6782&clid=4612](https://www.icwa.in/show_content.php?lang=1&level=2&cls_id=6782&clid=4612)

46. “Celebrating 50 Years Tapestry of India-Korea Relationship”, *Invest India*, <https://www.investindia.gov.in/team-india-blogs/celebrating-50-years-tapestry-india-korea-relationship#:~:text=The%20deep%2Drooted%20connections%20between,ancient%20Gaya%20Confederacy%20in%20Korea>

efforts in defense research and development. In 2022, joint exercises were conducted between the Indian and South Korean Navies,<sup>47</sup> which have improved marine cooperation and interoperability between the two countries. Both countries have established a joint Vice-Ministerial level dialogue in the “2+2” format for defense and foreign affairs.<sup>48</sup> The two countries have also advocated for an annual track 1.5 dialogue between the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security of ROK (IFANS) and the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).<sup>49</sup>

## FRANCE

The strategic partnership between France and India, signed in January 1998 by President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, was commemorated in 2023 on its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary by India and France.<sup>50</sup> This partnership is notably dynamic at an operational level. In 2023, activities included deploying a naval air group in the Indian Ocean, followed by an amphibious exercise during the Jeanne d'Arc mission<sup>51</sup> in India and the multilateral La Pérouse exercise in March.<sup>52</sup> Other joint military exercises between India and France that have grown in scope and complexity are exercises Varuna and Frinjex.<sup>53</sup> To strengthen technological cooperation and collaboration between the countries, an office of DRDO has been opened in the Indian Embassy in France. The countries also have a long history of cooperation between ISRO and the French Space Agency, Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES).<sup>54</sup> India and France have collaborated on the launch of projects like Trishna, an earth observation mission, a short-term plan for maritime domain awareness, and space situational awareness.<sup>55</sup>

## INDONESIA

Indonesia shares a relationship of common cultural heritage, colonial past, and mutual goals of political sovereignty and economic self-sufficiency with India, with the bilateral relations being two

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47. “India, South Korea Hold Naval Exercise In Bay Of Bengal”, *BW Defense*, <https://bwDefense.com/article/india-south-korea-hold-naval-exercise-in-bay-of-bengal-449260>

48. “India-ROK Joint Statement for Special Strategic Partnership”, *Embassy of India, Seoul*, <https://www.indembassyseoul.gov.in/india-rok-joint-statement-special-strategic-partnership>

49. Ibid.

50. “5th Annual Indo-French Defense Dialogue”, *La France En Inde / France in India*, <https://in.ambafrance.org/5th-Annual-Indo-French-Defense-Dialogue>

51. “La Pérouse exercise”, *La France En Inde / France in India*, <https://in.ambafrance.org/La-Perouse-exercise>

52. Ibid.

53. “India-France Bilateral Brief”, *Embassy of India, France & Principality of Monaco*, <https://www.coiparis.gov.in/page/bilateral-brief/>

54. Ibid.

55. Ibid.

years old.<sup>56</sup> India and Indonesia held the inaugural Security Dialogue 2018.<sup>57</sup> The two countries conducted their first joint naval exercise, Samudra Shakti, in 2018.<sup>58</sup> Both countries have been exploring areas of cooperation and collaboration in the Defense industry since 2016, as highlighted by the MoU signed between Tata Motors and PT Pindad.<sup>59</sup> The India-Indonesia Security Dialogue is a ministerial forum bringing together the Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and the National Security Advisor of India.<sup>60</sup> The comprehensive strategic partnership between nations has broadened the scope of cooperation and collaboration in Defense industry, science, technology, capacity building, cyber security, countering terrorism and violent extremism, and cooperation in UN Peacekeeping.<sup>61</sup>

## CONCLUSION

In summary, India's 2+2 Dialogues have yielded significant outcomes in strengthening strategic partnerships and hold immense significance in advancing strategic interests, fostering regional stability, and promoting global cooperation. These dialogues are critical platforms for addressing common security challenges, enhancing Defense cooperation, and deepening diplomatic ties. The future outlook for India's 2+2 Dialogues is promising, with opportunities for further collaboration and engagement across various domains. Sustained dialogue, proactive diplomacy, and mutual trust will be essential in realizing the full potential of these partnerships and advancing shared objectives for peace, security, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. Strengthening these dialogues with countries like Israel, Vietnam, and the Philippines will offer India multifaceted benefits. By elevating these relationships to the 2+2 level, India stands to enhance its defense capabilities through technological collaboration, joint exercises, and intelligence sharing.

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56. "India-Indonesia Bilateral Relations", *Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India*, [https://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/Unclassified\\_Bilateral\\_relations\\_brief\\_note\\_Aug\\_2023.pdf](https://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/Unclassified_Bilateral_relations_brief_note_Aug_2023.pdf)

57. Ibid.

58. "India-Indonesia Defense Relations", *Embassy of India, Jakarta, Indonesia*, <https://www.indianembassyjakarta.gov.in/pages?id=eyJpdil6IjZleXd1a0pIYjZ1d3VGbVRKQlJhOF9PSIsInZhbHVlIjoibnZWaWtTdWIEanh0c3FKQW5iWFczQT09IiwibWFjIjoizDAzNGNjMmY1MjYyMDBhYTdlYjMOWY2ZjFjOTdhZDUyNjE5NThiNzRhMDA2ZWYyMDA1YmQ0NjA4ZjRmYWYxZCJ9&subid=eyJpdil6IjZleXd1a0pIYjZ1d3VGbVRKQlJhOF9PSIsInZhbHVlIjoibnZWaWtTdWIEanh0c3FKQW5iWFczQT09IiwibWFjIjoizDAzNGNjMmY1MjYyMDBhYTdlYjMOWY2ZjFjOTdhZDUyNjE5NThiNzRhMDA2ZWYyMDA1YmQ0NjA4ZjRmYWYxZCJ9&nextid=eyJpdil6InBoBdNEZEPLMk1MVUY1NlFSeDU1T1E9PSIsInZhbHVlIjoiejV2VE RclZhcL3lyVGtNUIRoZGN2RWdBT0iLCjYWMiOijknT0NjIxMWFINTYwZjhjMmNjNTEyODdkMTNINlMjY2OTMxMTNjMDA5NjhhYzZwNjBjZjRhMmY5NDMyNWU5In0=>

59. Ibid.

60. "Second India- Indonesia Security Dialogue", *Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India*, [https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34982/Second\\_India\\_Indonesia\\_Security\\_Dialogue](https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34982/Second_India_Indonesia_Security_Dialogue)

61. "Defense Secretary & Secretary General of MoD, Indonesia to co-chair 7th Joint Defense Cooperation Committee meeting in New Delhi", *Press Information Bureau*, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2019412#:~:text=The%20India%2DIndonesia%20friendship%2C%20which,industry%2C%20science%20and%20technology%20etc.>

Moreover, these partnerships foster deeper diplomatic ties, facilitating coordinated responses to regional security challenges and advancing shared interests in maintaining maritime security, promoting economic integration, and ensuring a rules-based international order. As India deepens its engagements through structured dialogues, it reinforces its role as a stabilizing force in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond. The 2+2 format underscores mutual commitment to strategic cooperation and provides a robust framework for addressing emergent threats, enhancing defense preparedness, and promoting regional prosperity.



**MEDHAVI KHUSHI SHARMA** is a postgraduate student pursuing a Master of Arts in Defense and Strategic Studies at the Amity Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies, Amity University, Noida. She holds a Bachelor's in Political Science (Honors) from Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi. Additionally, she has earned a Post Graduate Diploma in Gandhi and Peace Studies from Indira Gandhi National Open University. Medhavi's academic background and interest reflect her deep commitment to understanding and analyzing critical issues in Defense, strategy, and peace studies.

*The views expressed in this article are personal.*

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